

MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF MONTICELLO
AUGUST 07, 2006

The regular meeting of the City of Monticello, Indiana Common Council was held on August 07, 2006 in the Council Chambers of the City Building at 6:00PM. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Fox and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call by Clerk Treasurer Rennatta Berkshire was answered by Mayor Robert Fox, City Attorney George Loy, Councilpersons William Smith, Grace Oilar, Bud Mummert, Jim Mann, Jay Clawson.

There being no additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes of the regular meeting of July 17, 2006, a motion was made by Councilperson Mann seconded by Councilperson Oilar to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call vote: all aye.

Addition to Agenda

Review of Ordinance 2002-07, Noise Ordinance.

Citizen Participation

Mr. Merle Pherson who lives at 409 Maple Street said he has concerns about the decreasing property values due to properties either rundown or littered with junk. He suggested that the city put into effect some kind of quality control to address this problem. He said there is a house in his neighborhood that has been abandoned for over a year. The other issue he questioned was the capacity of our current wastewater treatment plant to handle the new hospital and the sewer connection agreements recently approved. Superintendent Mowrer answered that the new hospital being built will be a wash with the old one being vacated and that the plant was at 83% capacity. Mr. Pherson is concerned about over flow in heavy rains and Mr. Mowrer said that it can not be prevented until such time as the long term control plan begins to be implemented which is scheduled for 2008-2009. He also said that the noise ordinance concerning loud cars and speeding is not being enforced. Mr. Pherson would like to see citations published. Chief Reynolds said that at the end of the year there is published the total activity for the year. He is concerned that the city is not creating an atmosphere that other people want to move into. Chief Reynolds said that as complaints are received the department does go out and issue notices. Terri Williams said that on the other end of the city she has the same problem in her neighborhood. She said that there are vacant homes and yards full of junk along with a person who likes to start fires. She said that she does contact the Police Department and she asked about a condemnation process or code inspector for the city. Superintendent Roberts and Chief Reynolds reminded everyone that some people are having financial or physical problems that prevent them from making the necessary repairs or clean up to their properties. Mayor Fox said the city uses the county building inspector, Dave Anderson to investigate complaints about unsafe houses. Councilperson Oilar said the city does have a nuisance ordinance which is enforced when the police department is notified, however, it is time intensive to enforce the ordinance and personnel is limited. Councilperson Clawson said that the county building inspector is more for inspection of new building construction and most counties, cities and towns have rental requirements. He thinks a lot of the rundown conditions come from landlords not putting money back into their rentals. Councilperson Clawson would like to see stricter codes on rental properties and having standards that make sure

plumbing and electrical are safe before renting them out. He said that budget restrictions prevent hiring additional personnel. Councilperson Oilar said that it is not only rental properties but some homeowners do not take pride in keeping up their homes or properties. She also thinks stricter enforcement measures could be taken. Councilperson Mann was in agreement but would like to contact other cities and towns for ideas of how they are handling nuisances and code enforcement. Councilperson Mann and Councilperson Clawson will begin to contact others and present their findings at the next meeting.

Handicap Parking Report

Chief Reynolds and Superintendent Roberts reviewed the request of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Van Meter to add additional handicap parking space in front of “Today’s Headlines” hair salon. Chief Reynolds said that the people he talked to in that block were not in favor of taking two spaces to put another handicap spot in. There are two handicap spots at the present time—one in front of the city building and the other on Main Street a short distance from the business. The recommendation was to not add another spot on the street but Superintendent Roberts said two more handicap spaces could be added to the South end of the city parking lot behind their business. Kurtina Minglin said that it is not just Mrs. Van Meter who finds it difficult to maneuver the distance but they have several elderly and disabled customers who would benefit from a closer parking and/or drop off space. Ms. Minglin also asked about the two hour parking limitation as the shop has customers who spend more than two hours in the shop. She asked if it was permissible to move their car over one spot to avoid getting a parking ticket. Attorney Loy answered her latter in the meeting that it was not a legal way to avoid receiving a parking ticket. Ms. Kelly Haygood made the suggestion that the parallel space at the South end of the block be eliminated by making it angle parking and then using two of the spaces at the North end to put a handicap space. Councilperson Clawson reminded them that before handicap spaces and the one parallel space were marked, studies were done as to the best placement for safety and traffic flow. He also reminded them that if another space were added, it would not be exclusive to their shop but to any handicap vehicle that wanted to park there. Mrs. Van Meter also didn’t think the 15 minute parking sign was necessary and the Council agreed that the 15 minute limit parking space in front of the liquor store should be eliminated. Ms. Minglin asked if the two hour parking in front of the City Building could be made three hours and Councilperson Oilar said that there was no guarantee that the three hour space would not be taken by someone else other than customers of the businesses. Another suggestion was made to have special parking tags for the businesses whose customers must be in their store for more than two hours. A concern with taking any space off the turn into the city building parking lot is that the turn would be too sharp for larger vehicles. Chief Reynolds and Superintendent Roberts will take another look at the spaces to determine if the parallel space could be eliminated by making one or two angle parking spaces and taking two spaces at the North end of the block for one handicap space.

Review of Noise Ordinance 2002-07

Review of the Noise Ordinance 2002-07 was request by Ms. Terri Williams who made the request at the previous meeting. The problem that caused her concern with the sweeper operating in the parking lot across from her home at 2:30 in the morning most likely has been reconciled. Councilperson Oilar said that the city ordinance does address certain motorized vehicles or like vehicles being run after the hour of 8pm in the evening until 7am. Councilperson Mummert said that he thinks since the time change, the time should be extended an hour because of it still being light outside at that time of the evening. Councilperson Clawson and Councilperson Mummert will review this ordinance and make recommendations at the next meeting.

Hot Dog Vendor Request

Mr. Dale Sharp owns “Hot Diggity Dogs” and would like to operate his business on the city sidewalk in the area between the Chamber of Commerce building and Downey Insurance. He does not intend to be directly on the main sidewalk. He will operate three days a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from the hours of 9am until 3pm for as long as weather permits. He has a two million dollar liability policy with the city named as an additional insured. He requested that the permit fee be waived as he is not a peddler and has a retail sales certificate. Clerk Treasurer Berkshire said that the present ordinance includes not only persons going door-to-door but also any person transacting a temporary business within the city and the seasonal permit fee is \$150 for 6 months. A motion was made by Councilperson Mann seconded by Councilperson Smith to allow Mr. Sharp to operate his business “Hot Diggity Dogs” in the area between the Chamber of Commerce building and Downey Insurance. Roll call vote: all aye.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Rennatta Berkshire, IAMC, CMC, MM1
Clerk Treasurer